

**SECRET**

NRO & USAF REVIEWS COMPLETED

16 August 1963

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Field Activities  
Office of Special Activities**

**SUBJECT : Status Report on KC-135 Tanker Lighting System**

25X1 1. On 12 and 13 August 1963 I received two separate telephone reports from [ ] who was then at Beale AFB with Colonel Ellsworth Powell from SAC and Colonel Felices, the Tanker Squadron Commander at Beale.

2. On the evening of 12 August the pilot installation of [ ] condenser-discharge lighting system was given an environmental test against a gaggle of F-101s, totaling eight aircraft in all. Flights against the illuminated tankers were made in sunlight up to one mile successfully; at dusk, up to twelve miles successfully; and at night, up to fifty miles ranging with a high of 72 miles being reported. 25X1 According to [ ] Colonels Powell and Felices, together with the pilots who took part in the actual operation, were most enthusiastic about the augmented visibility offered by the pilot installation.

3. The only change coming out of the test was that it is now agreed that the system as it will be installed on the fifteen KC-135s will consist of eight lights in all, broken down as follows:

- a. One light in the tail cone.
- b. One light on top of the vertical stabilizer. (This is new.)
- c. One light on the top and bottom of each outboard wing tip.
- d. One light dorsally and another installed ventrally.

25X1 At present, [ ] says that he is confident of completing the installation on five KC-135s by 10 September with the full squadron of fifteen to be equipped and fltable on 26 September.

25X1 DAD/OSA:JAC: [ ]

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/s/

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